

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 12, 2005      LB 673

states the legislative intent to appropriate \$1,000 in fiscal year 2005-06, and 2006-07 to the Animal Damage Control Fund. I have filed an amendment to the committee amendments that would remove this legislative intent language. That was Senator Chambers has mentioned that the Legislature cannot appropriate the money without an A bill. LB 673 carries an A bill which would appropriate the money, and we can have a discussion on that when the A bill is on the agenda. The committee amendment also states that the director of the Department of Agriculture may provide up to \$25,000 in fiscal year 2005-06 and 2006-07 to counties that have adopted a management plan and that apply for funds through the department. LB 673 is not an extermination plan. It is designed to allow citizens, who want black-tailed prairie dogs to live on their property, to do so. The bill in no way suggests that prairie dogs should be completely eradicated. LB 673 doesn't change any of the existing restrictions on the use of poison to control prairie dogs. Federal law restricts the time of year when poison may be used. Poison is regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. Poisons regulated under this act may be used only by persons licensed to apply them. LB 673 changes none of the restrictions on poisoning of prairie dogs. People who work with grassland agriculture know that the ecosystem has to be kept in balance, and that is what I want to accomplish through LB 673. With the management, ecosystem can be maintained for the benefit of all: the black-tailed prairie dog, grazing animals, and other species in agriculture. At this time, I will conclude my remarks so that Senator Kremer, Chair of the Agriculture Committee, may introduce the committee amendments to LB 673. That would be AM0867. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Loudon. You've heard the opening on LB 673. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments. Senator Kremer, as Chairman of Ag Committee, you're recognized to open on AM0867.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. I think Senator Loudon has maybe alluded to a few of the changes, but the committee amendments actually strike the original sections and become the bill. The amendments make several substantive and technical changes, generally described